

NOV 28 1963

Approved For Release 2004/01/16 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000500050005-0

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Inside Report . . By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

LBJ's Kitchen Cabinet

IN HIS first 72 hours as Chief Executive, President Johnson began picking the brains of the men who will be his trusted advisers in the year ahead.

Their names—like Benjamin Cohen or Dean Acheson from out of the past—will surprise those unaware that Johnson had his own braintrust in his swashbuckling days as Senate Majority Leader.

Actually, Mr. Johnson seems to be absolutely sincere in his desire to keep as much of the Kennedy team on the job as long as possible. He quickly passed the word to appointed officials from the Cabinet level on down that there would be no replacements. But beyond these official spots, the new President will have his own kitchen cabinet.

With or without portfolio, these are the men who will be closest to the new President. Many of them are out of the old New Deal, brain-trusters who first got to know Mr. Johnson as a young liberal Congressman from Texas. Others are younger men who had secondary appointive spots in the Kennedy Administration, thanks to Mr. Johnson's influence. And, in sharp contrast to President Kennedy, the new President will rely heavily on advice from old friends in the Senate.

THIS KITCHEN cabinet is not the well-organized team that John F. Kennedy brought to Washington nearly three years ago. Mr. Johnson really never built an effective personal organization. Instead, the President has



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collected an informal array of advisers during 30 years in Washington. He instinctively sought their counsel last weekend.

The old New Dealers will be influential in basic policy advice. Dean Acheson, 70, President Truman's Secretary of State, will be an unofficial consultant for President Johnson. Acheson advised the then Senator Johnson during the 1957 civil rights fight, indicating that his advice may not be limited to foreign policy.

Benjamin Cohen, 69, one of FDR's brain-trusters, may actually take a job within the White House as special counsel. Over the years, he has kept in close contact with Mr. Johnson on economics, politics, and civil rights.

Younger members of the Johnson kitchen cabinet will be used less for broad policy advice than for mapping detailed tactical plans. Heading them will be practical-minded, 29-year-old Bill Moyers, who first went to work for Sen. Johnson early in 1960 and then set up the Peace Corps as Sargent Shriver's trusted deputy. Now he's stationed at a White House desk as Mr. Johnson's focal point of activity.

Cyrus Vance, a young Johnson protege who is now

Secretary of the Army and slated for promotion to Deputy Secretary of Defense, will have the President's ear on national security matters. Harry McPherson, another protege from Mr. Johnson's Senate days and now one of Vance's deputies, may move to the White House to serve in a key position.

FOR THE first time since the Truman administration, the new President will ask certain Senators for advice—not merely go through the polite motions of conferring with them. Near the top of this list is Sen. J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. Fulbright, a strong Johnson-for-President man in 1960, has been ebullient in private conversation about prospects for the Johnson Presidency.

The once warm relationship between the President and Georgia's Sen. Richard Russell has cooled in recent years, but one of the first conversations the new President had was with the sage old Southern patriarch.

Other Senators closest to Mr. Johnson are political moderates, never on particularly intimate terms with the New Frontier. These include Lister Hill of Alabama, John Pastore of Rhode Island, Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota, Warren Magnuson of Washington and Thomas Dodd of Connecticut.

This Johnson kitchen cabinet is not "New Frontier." It tends to be older, more sedate, perhaps less liberal than the Kennedy team. But along with the new President himself, it will give the Johnson Administration its distinctive style.

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